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PONTARDAWE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1943



NEATH:
W. WHITTINGTON LTD., WIND STREET

—
1944

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PONTARDAWE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1943

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Pontardawe Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Pontardawe Rural District for the year 1943, and which is compiled in accordance with the instructions given in Circular 10/44 (Wales).

A study of the Report will show that it was found possible to maintain the services in operation during 1942, and even in a small measure to contribute to their extension.

The Dispersal Points for the vitamin supplements supplied by the Ministry of Food were increased, thereby enabling the total quantity of orange juice distributed to be trebled. A considerable increase of distribution in the other products was obtained, particularly so in the case of National Dried Milk. It is gratifying to note that the initial reluctance to accept this food has been overcome for there is no doubt regarding its high quality.

During the year sustained efforts were made to further improve the percentage of children immunised against diphtheria. With this end in view the Health Visitors were asked to make this matter their main duty for a period of the year. Good results were received, but the situation in this respect cannot yet be said to be entirely satisfactory.

The central heating system installed at the Isolation Hospital fulfilled a long-felt need. The alterations which have been performed at this Institution during recent years have enhanced its usefulness and have been of inestimable value.

It will be seen from the paragraphs dealing with housing that this question is of almost paramount importance, therefore it is felt that the suggestion made should receive your earnest consideration.

In conclusion, it is desired to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Council for the interest shown in matters affecting Public Health and to express appreciation of the efforts of the Public Health Staff during the year covered by this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. ALUN EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Chairman of the Public Health Committee—

Councillor John Davies, J.P.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health.... Brig. J. Gwynne Morgan, O.B.E.,
T.D., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S.
(Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.
(Lond.).
(*On War Service*).

Temporary Medical Officer
of Health David Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector, Ins-
pector of Meat and
other Foods Ieuan Lewis, M.S.I.A.

Health Visitor Nurse M. T. Morgan, S.R.N., C.M.B.

Administrative and Clerical:

1st Assistant John Rogers
Rufus Thomas Mrs. Gwyneth Davies
Miss May Davies
Consultant for Difficult Dr. J. Lloyd Davies, M.D., M.R.C.P.,
Obstetric Cases F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Gellynudd Isolation Hospital

Medical Superintendent Medical Officer of Health
Matron Miss M. Rhys Williams, S.R.N.,
S.R.F.N.

Clydach Day Nursery

Warden Miss Margaret Gape, S.R.N.
(*Part year*)

Health Visitors (*Part time*)

Clydach Nurse G. Edwards and Nurse M.
Butler
Pontardawe Nurse G. Price and Nurse N. Davies

The part-time duties of the Queen's Nurses mentioned above are attending at Infant Welfare Centres, visiting children of pre-school age and persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Midwives

The Midwives practising in the District are under the control of the Glamorgan County Council.

SECTION A—STATISTICS

Area as given on Ordnance Maps	34,969 acres
Rateable Value	£128,082
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£470
Birth rate 18·0 per 1,000 estimated civilian population.	
Live-birth rate 17·6 per 1,000 „ „ „	
Still-birth rate.... 19·3 per 1,000 <i>total live and still-births</i>	
Death-rate 12·8 per 1,000 estimated civilian population.	
Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Reg. General's Short List).	

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 live and still births</i>
No. 29 Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Maternal causes	2	1·14
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :		
All infants per 1,000 live births		60·8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		57·4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		130·4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		50
„ „ Measles (all ages)		Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		2

Report under the Factories Act, 1937.

Visits were made from time to time during the year to the mechanical and non-mechanical factories in the District, and instructions given to remedy minor defects which were noticed at the time of inspection.

The changes occurring in the various industries in the District during the year were notified by the H.M. Inspector of Factories, and these were recorded in the Department.

**VITAL STATISTICS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1943, CLASSIFIED BY AGES,
CAUSES AND LOCALITIES.**

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Code No.	Causes of Death	Sex	Totals	0-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Clydach	Pontardawe	Ystalyfera	Gwaun-caegurwen
2	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	{M F}	... 2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
5	Diphtheria	{M F}	1 1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
6	Respiratory Tuberculosis	{M F}	7 8	...	...	...	2 3	4 5	1	...	1	3	...	...
7	Other Tuberculosis	{M F}	4 2	...	1 1	...	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	2
8	Syphilitic Disease	{M F}	2 2	1 1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1 1	1
9	Influenza	{M F}	... 2 4	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...
13	MCancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	{M F}	2 3	...	...	...	...	...	1 3	1	...	1 2	1	1
13	FCancer of Uterus	{M F}	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	{M F}	5 5	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	2	2	...
15	Cancer of Breast	{M F}	... 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	2	3	...
16	Cancer of All Other Sites	{M F}	24 9	...	...	...	1 1	1 1	9 3	13 5	1 9 5	1 8 3	...	...
17	Diabetes	{M F}	1 1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
18	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	{M F}	9 20	...	...	...	...	...	2 6	7 14	...	2 5	...	5 3
19	Heart Disease	{M F}	18 39	...	...	1	1 1	...	5 7	13 28	3 6	8 10	...	1 13
			43	...	...	...	1	2	13	27	8	16	7	12

BIRTHS IN DISTRICT.

	Total Births		Total	CLYDACH						PONTARDAWE						YSTALYFERA						GWAUNCAE-GURWEN					
				Legitimate		Illegitimate		Still Born		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Still Born		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Still Born		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Still Born	
	M	F		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
January	8	13	21																								
February	9	13	22	1	1																						
March	18	15	33																								
April	21	13	34																								
May	21	23	44	1	1																						
June	17	22	39	1	1																						
July	15	16	31																								
August	22	12	34																								
September	18	10	28																								
October	16	13	29																								
November	16	22	38	1	1																						
December	14	13	27																								
TOTALS	195	185	380	49	45	3	2	1	49	45	4	3	2	3	40	43	1	2	1	45	39	1	1	1	1	1	1

BIRTHS BELONGING TO DISTRICT BORN OUTSIDE AREA.

	Total Births		CLYDACH				PONTARDAWE				YSTALYFERA				GWAUNCAE-GURWEN			
			Legitimate		Illegitimate		Still Born		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Still Born		Legitimate		Illegitimate	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
January	5	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
February	5	9	1	3	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
March	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
April	7	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
May	6	11	2	5	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
June	5	9	2	4	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
July	7	9	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
August	6	8	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	-
September	7	12	2	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	2
October	14	9	3	2	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
November	7	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
December	12	12	5	4	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
TOTALS	86	104	49	27	-	-	1	1	26	31	-	-	-	-	47	20	1	2

One Hundred and Forty-nine Confinements for the Births mentioned above occurred at the West Glamorgan Hospital.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

(a) Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens continue to be sent to the City and County Laboratory, Cardiff, by the Local Practitioners, and from the Gellynudd Isolation Hospital. This arrangement has been in operation for a number of years.

Samples of water, milk and other foods were also sent to this Laboratory for Bacteriological examination and chemical analyses.

Reports on the analyses of sewage and sewage effluents were also received.

No. of Samples :—

WATER :

Bacteriological Examinations	....	....	15
Chemical Analyses	...	....	9

MILK :

Bacteriological Examinations	45
Resazurin	29

SEWAGE :

Sewage and Effluent Analyses	31
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(b) Hospitals

GELLYNUDD ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The number of cases of the various infectious conditions admitted to this hospital during the year was 267.

Included in the total given above are a considerable number of cases from the Ystradgynlais District, which were admitted to the hospital by arrangement with the Ystradgynlais Rural District Council.

A central heating system was installed during the year and this is of considerable benefit and further improves the whole facilities at the Hospital which can now be favourably compared with similar institutions throughout the County.

GWRHYD SMALL-POX HOSPITAL

These buildings are kept on a care and maintenance basis. The joint caretakers being responsible for their cleanliness and preparedness to accept patients should the need arise.

PRINCE OF WALES ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL, CARDIFF

Two cases were admitted during the year to the above-mentioned Hospital under our Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

The arrangement whereby children in need of treatment and coming within our jurisdiction are admitted to this Hospital has been in operation for a number of years, and is working excellently.

WEST GLAMORGAN HOSPITAL

The arrangement whereby emergency maternity cases are admitted to the West Glamorgan Hospital continues to operate. This agreement also extends to the admittance of other cases on the authority of your Medical Officer of Health.

In addition to the cases admitted through the Public Health Department, a very considerable number of expectant mothers from the District enter this Hospital for their confinement by private arrangements made between the persons concerned and the County Authorities.

(c) Ambulance Facilities

Infectious disease cases occurring throughout the Rural District are conveyed when necessary in the ambulance attached to the Gellynudd Isolation Hospital. Other cases in need of an ambulance are conveyed to the various hospitals and institutions by the St. John's Ambulances stationed in the different districts, or by Works or Public Ambulances.

When an emergency arises and none of these ambulances is available the vehicles attached to the Civil Defence General Services are used.

(d) Nursing in the Home

The nurses attached to the various Nursing Associations in the District undertake nursing in the homes where the need arises. The Council gives grants to the local Committees towards the cost of running these associations.

(e) Ynisderw and Danygraig Hostels

These Hostels are maintained for the purpose of housing evacuee children who because of minor ailments cannot be billeted in private homes. As a result of the return of a considerable number of evacuees to their permanent homes it became necessary to close the Danygraig Hostel, and for the remainder of the year it was kept on a care and maintenance basis.

INFANT MORTALITY. Nett Deaths at Various Ages under One Year.

Causes of Death	Under 24 Hours	Under 1 week and over 24 hours	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under one month	One month and under three months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under one year	Clydach	Pontardawe	Ystalyfera	G.C.C.
Asphyxia ... Spina Bifida	... 1	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	1...	......	...
Intestinal Obstruction	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	1...	......	...
Congenital Heart Block	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	1...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	1...	...
Broncho Pneumonia	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 1	1 1	1 ...	1 ...	4 2	2 1	... ...	1 1	...
Influenza ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	1
Suppurating Glands—Neck	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	1 1	...
Prematurity	1 ...	3 2	... ...	... ...	... ...	4 2	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	4 2	2 ...	1 1	1 1	...
Imperforate Anus	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	1...	......	......	...
Infantile Convulsions	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...

[illegible]

The medical and psychological supervision of the children in residence at these hostels is performed by the Medical Officer of Health, in co-operation with Officials of the Welsh Board of Health.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The centres operating under the above heading at Clydach, Pontardawe, Godrergraig, Ystalyfera, Cwmlllynfell and Gwauncaegurwen hold meetings every week or every fortnight according to the need of the various Districts.

These Centres are housed in Miners' Welfare Halls, Chapel Vestries and private buildings. In normal times such arrangements could not be considered entirely satisfactory as these buildings are not the ideal premises for the purpose for which they are now being used.

SUB-COMMITTEE CLINIC REPORTS

Clinic Reports were received from the six sub-Committees throughout the year, and these showed a fairly satisfactory attendance, but it is felt that in normal times at least, improvement in this respect could be expected in some of the Infant Centres.

SUB-COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS

The various arrangements necessary were made for the cases given below.

<i>Cases of Special Nourishment</i>	<i>Dental Cases</i>	<i>Orthopaedic Cases</i>	<i>Ear, Nose & Throat</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Cases</i>	<i>Homes Help</i>
22	7	21	11	9	19

The number of applications under these various headings are much the same as in the previous year. The only considerable difference is noticed in the number of cases which received special nourishments, but the figure of twenty-two cannot be considered excessive in any way.

It is desirable to make it clear to Sub-Committee members and the Officers attached to the six Clinic Centres that considerable importance is attached to the sections of the M. & C.W. Services mentioned above, and that it is therefore the duty of everyone concerned to see that no delay occurs in bringing cases in need of any service to the notice of the Central Committee and the Department.

DISTRIBUTION OF VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS AND NATIONAL DRIED MILK

The following are particulars of the quantities of the various products issued from the dispersal centres under the M. & C.W. Scheme for the distribution of vitamin supplements and National Dried Milk :—

DISTRICT	<i>Cod Liver Oil (Bottles)</i>	<i>Orange Juice (Bottles)</i>	<i>Vit. Capsules (Packets)</i>	<i>Nat. Dried Milk (Packets)</i>
Clydach	949	8,647	164	867
Craigcefnparc	278	2,015	26	96
Trebanos	224	1,642	51	—
Pontardawe	889	9,125	236	—
Alltwen	467	4,525	90	—
Godrergraig	328	2,720	74	1,745
Ystalyfera	695	5,423	135	1,775
Cwmllynfell	376	2,384	58	—
Gwauncaegurwen	987	8,147	236	1,740
TOTALS	5,193	44,628	1,070	6,223

The figures given above show an all round increase on those for the previous year. The total number of bottles of orange juice distributed is three times the number issued in the previous twelve months, which is truly a remarkable and an encouraging record. The additional dispersal points opened during the year have been a great success, so much so that it is now felt the efforts made in this matter have brought adequate results.

The importance of the vitamin supplements which are supplied by the Ministry of Food at times such as we are now experiencing cannot be over-stressed. With this end in view we took every opportunity during the relevant period to persuade those entitled to benefit to take advantage of the products placed at their disposal.

It will be noticed that no National Dried Milks were issued under the auspices of our Scheme in the Pontardawe Area. This was so by agreement with the Local Food Office which undertook to make the necessary arrangement for this area. We understand that the total issued was 8,797 packets.

With regard to Cwmllynfell, National Dried Milk was not distributed because until recently there was no demand.

It is gratifying to note that the National Dried Milk is now being used in considerable quantities throughout the District. It seems that there has been a tendency to believe that as this product is supplied at a cheap rate it is not of the desired quality. Such a viewpoint was entirely erroneous for it can be said without hesitation that National Dried Milk approved by the Ministry of Health is the equal in food value to any other product designed for the same purpose.

MILK AND DRIED FOODS.

Raw milk was supplied to eligible persons through the Local Food Office free, and at a cheap rate.

In addition to the above, arrangements are in operation whereby various brands of dried foods are sold at near cost price at Clinic Centres. This scheme has proved to be of considerable benefit to mothers of young children whose family incomes are over the Maternity and Child Welfare Scale, but who would yet find it difficult to meet the full cost of the special nourishments needed by their children.

MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION AND TREATMENT

Number of expectant mothers sent by the Council to Maternity Institutions during the year—1.

This case was sent to the West Glamorgan Hospital.

The number of expectant mothers entering hospitals and Nursing Homes outside the District for confinements by private arrangements was 190. The vast majority of these were confined at the West Glamorgan Hospital, while the remainder were confined in other small hospitals and Nursing Homes.

HOME HELPS

Nineteen mothers were provided with home helps during the year. The persons selected to perform these duties were under the general supervision of clinic Secretaries, Health Visitors and Midwives.

Enquiries were made at the Local Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Services regarding suitable persons who could be placed on a panel to perform this work as the need arose, but it was found that the persons willing to consider taking up these duties were not of the type desired. In view of this it was decided to adhere to our old scheme whereby a suitable person was employed when necessary.

EXTRA CLOTHING COUPONS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

The Maternity and Child Welfare Authority ceased to be responsible for the distribution of extra clothing coupons at the end of July, 1943, therefore the Department was called upon to return all outstanding Coupon Books to the Board of Trade after that date. The number issued previous to the recall of supplies was 191 books.

When making the new regulations regarding the distribution the Ministries concerned thanked the Local Authorities for the services rendered and explained that the change was taking place because it had been found possible to grant on one certificate the various concessions to which expectant mothers were entitled.

ANTE-NATAL SCHEME

One hundred and forty-seven expectant mothers were examined for the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority by General Practitioners during the year.

The figure given is less than the total for the previous year but it still represents approximately 38% of all mothers confined in the District.

A number of possible difficult cases were referred to Dr. J. Lloyd Davies, the obstetric consultant, for examination and advice.

It is of interest to note that a number of local doctors perform ante-natal examinations in their private capacity, in addition to those for which particulars are submitted to the Department.

HEALTH VISITING OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE

The following are the total number of visits paid by our Health Visitors to young children coming within the perview of the M. & C. W. Scheme :—

To children under 1 year of age	....	Total Visits	3,380
To children between the ages of 1 and			
5 years	....	..	4,611

The Health Visitors continue to be notified of all births for the District through the Department, and visits are made to the addresses mentioned as soon as possible and subsequent visits made periodically thereafter.

The total number of visits paid was a little lower than usual, but this is explained by the fact that special instructions were received from the Welsh Board of Health to direct Health Visitors to the campaign for diphtheria immunisation for a period of the year.

CHILDREN ATTENDING AT CLINIC CENTRES

The total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the six Infant Welfare Centres is given below :

Under 1 year of age at the end of the year	....	309
Over 1 year of age at the end of the year	....	648

The figures for under 1 year of age show that approximately 53% of the children born in the District in a year attend at the various clinic centres, and the total for children up to 5 years shows that 45% of eligible children are given an opportunity to benefit from the facilities available.

The number of children under 1 year attending the Clinics did not come up to the figure for the previous year. It is thought that Sub-Committee members could be of considerable help to improve attendances at their respective centres by approaching non-attending mothers known to have children of clinic age.

DOMESTIC CLEANLINESS AND PERSONAL HYGIENE

In accordance with desires expressed in a circular issued to Welfare Authorities by the Welsh Board of Health, the Health Visitors were instructed to lose no opportunity when making their visits of impressing upon mothers the importance of cleanliness and good habits and the need for ensuring that their children were free from verminous conditions.

Efforts to educate the mothers in these respects were also made at the Infant Welfare Centres by the Health Visitors and Nurses in attendance.

CLYDACH WAR-TIME DAY NURSERY

We were informed by the Welsh Board of Health, in the middle of 1943, that it had become necessary to close the war-time nursery as the attendance continued to be below the minimum number required.

Efforts had been made throughout the period the nursery was open to improve the attendance, but despite this it continued to be so disappointing that the Ministry took the course mentioned above.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Three cases of this complaint were notified during the year, and one of the patients was admitted to hospital for treatment.

In accordance with the Regulations, copies of all notifications were sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

EVACUATION SCHEME

The eligible evacuees resident in the District were given the benefits of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services. This action is in accordance with the practice of previous years and the directions of the Ministry of Health.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION (SECTION 206 TO 220, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936)

It did not become necessary to take any action under this heading throughout the year.

Maternal and Infantile Mortality

(a) MATERNAL MORTALITY

The records for the year show that we had two deaths from maternal causes. The District has been fortunate in the number of deaths from these causes in recent times, but those that occur periodically are constant reminders of the difficulties of motherhood and therefore are incentives which compel those concerned to give every service possible to expectant mothers.

(b) INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate for the year was 60·8 per 1,000 births. This shows a higher rate than that for 1942, and is also higher than the national figure. Perhaps it should be pointed out that these rates are apt to differ considerably in small areas such as ours, where a few difficult births will alter the figures appreciably.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Scheme for diphtheria immunisation continues to be in operation and, as is stated elsewhere, a special effort was made to get parents with young children to agree to this treatment by directing the health visitors to treat this work as their main duty for a period of the year.

The importance of immunisation was also advertised on Notice Boards, and in the Local Press.

The percentage of children immunised at the end of the year is given below :—

Children under 5 years of age 65%

Children between the ages of 5 and 15 years 71%

It is satisfying to be able to record that our figures for immunisation compare very favourably with the other Local Authorities coming under the jurisdiction of the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The bulk of the water consumed in the District is supplied from the Cray Reservoir. This main source is supplemented by a considerable number of springs and tanks maintained throughout the Rural District

The water from all sources is such as to give a constant and a sufficient supply. The system of stand taps does not now operate in the District as the vast majority of the houses have been connected to the various supplies.

The subject of water supplies is fully dealt with in the Annual Report for 1938.

The samples of water taken from the various supplies and sent to the Cardiff Laboratory for chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations showed these waters to be satisfactory for human consumption.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams

A series of visits was paid during the year by a Sub-Committee of the Council, together with Authorised Officers to industrial concerns, for the purpose of determining possible sources of pollution to rivers and streams.

In the course of these visits it was possible to suggest a number of alterations to the manner in which the various industries dealt with this vexed question, and which when effected, considerably improved the nature of the effluent discharged from the plants and processes before it finally entered the different water ways.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

(a) Disinfestation—

Number of (1) Council Houses	....	(1) Infested	8
		(2) Disinfested	8
Number of (2) Other Houses	....	(1) Infested	10
		(2) Disinfested	10

(b) Methods Employed for Disinfesting Houses.

The furniture was removed to centres of the rooms, and walls were stripped where necessary and a blow lamp used to destroy the vermin. Various insecticides were also used, and among the most effective of these were found to be *Zaldecide* and *Vermoose*.

Sewage and Sewage Effluent

In the course of the year the results of 31 samples of sewage and effluent taken by the County Sanitary Inspector were received from the County Medical Officer of Health. The results were comparable with those of previous years. On the whole they showed for the different Sewage Farms a sewage of fairly moderate strength, and the effluent to be of fairly efficient purification.

Copies of all results received were sent to the Council's Surveyor for his information.

Housing

Houses in the several population centres of the District were inspected for sanitary defects, and overcrowding. Details of these inspections and the actions taken will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Section of this Report.

The question of the proper housing of the District's population continues to be one of the major problems of the Public Health Department.

The inspections have shown that there is considerable work to be done under the Housing Acts. The existing factors of war difficulties and lack of new buildings, have combined to produce circumstances that demand your Council's attention at the earliest possible date. The practical and speedy solution of this problem which, as is well known, strikes at the very heart of good health and environmental hygiene can only be achieved by a bold programme, one of the primary points of which should be an increased inspectorate.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The farms registered as milk producers in the District during the year numbered 213.

In addition to the above we had 29 producers from outside the Rural District retailing milk within the area, and also 30 retailers.

Total number producing or retailing in the District, 272.

Inspections of the premises of producers and retailers were made by the Sanitary Inspector and, when occasion demanded, the Medical Officer of Health.

Special attention was paid to the cleanliness of dairies, utensils and milking stools. The people concerned were also advised as to the best methods to adopt for the purpose of producing a clean milk supply.

Milk Samples

The results of milk samples examined at the City and County Laboratory, Cardiff, and those examined under the new scheme at the Ministry of Agriculture, Area Laboratory, Swansea, have been scheduled and are given below.

MILK ANALYSES

<i>Group</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>No. Satis- factory</i>	<i>% Satis- factory</i>
Total taken—all Classes	71	32	39	54·9%
County Laboratory, Cardiff	42	17	25	59·5%
Bacteriological Examination Ministry of Agriculture, Swansea. Resazurin Test....	29	15	14	48·2%

Tubercle Bacilli were found to be absent from samples taken for that purpose.

On receipt of an unsatisfactory milk sample result, the producer or retailer was notified and a visit made to the premises. Instructions were then given on the precautions necessary to improve the milk supply, and the occupier informed that another inspection would be made to ascertain if the suggestions given had been implemented.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Superintendent Wilkins, of the Gower Police Division, has kindly supplied the following particulars of samples taken under the Act mentioned above during the year 1943 :—

New Milk	....	....	58
Butter	....	....	2
Margarine	....	....	2
Cake Mixture	....	....	1
Lentils	....	....	1
Custard Powder	....	....	1
Ground Ginger	....	....	1
Lard	....	....	1
Pudding Mixture	....	....	1
Creamola Custard Mixture	....	....	1
Egg Substitute Powder	....	....	1
Beer	....	....	1
Vinegar	....	....	1
Ammoniated Tinc. of Quinine	....	....	1
Glauber Salts	....	....	1
TOTAL			74

As in previous years these samples were taken in the various population centres within the District. Sixty-seven of the samples taken were found to be satisfactory. Where deficiencies were found, proceedings were taken against the people responsible, and convictions recorded in a number of cases.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Diphtheria

The cases of diphtheria notified, details of which are given on a schedule in this Report, were admitted to our Isolation Hospital. During the year we had sixteen cases occurring in children who had been previously immunised, but none of these proved fatal.

The usual precautions against the spread of this disease were undertaken in all cases notified.

Scarlet Fever

One hundred and forty-six cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, of which 85 were admitted to Hospital. In all cases where the patients were not admitted arrangements were made for their treatment at home. The cases notified were mostly of a mild nature.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever

The patients suffering from this disease were all admitted to our Isolation Hospital, where two cases proved fatal. Visits were made to all homes from which cases were notified, and precautions taken to prevent the spread of infection.

Tuberculosis

Forty-nine new cases were added to the Tuberculosis Register during the year. Many of these were admitted to Sanatoria.

The Health Visitors attached to the Department pay periodical visits to all tuberculous patients in the course of the year, and render what assistance they can to the sufferers, and give advice as to the precautions necessary to prevent the spread of infection. Patients also continue to be informed of the free facilities available at the Tuberculosis Institute, Herbert Street, Pontardawe. The Scheme whereby grants are made to patients and their dependents is operated by the County Authority.

Infectious Diseases Schedules

Particulars of the age groups of the various diseases are given in the Schedules included in this Report.

Scabies Treatment

A clinic for the purpose of treating sufferers from scabies is maintained at the First Aid Post, Pontardawe. During the year a total of 210 cases were treated. Each case received on an average four applications of the appropriate ointment.

These cases were sent to the Cleansing Centre by my Department, after a certificate had been received from the family doctor, or in the case of a school child, after a notice of exclusion from school had been received. Sufferers at first showed some reluctance to attend for treatment, but no difficulty is now experienced in this direction.

LIST OF SCARLET FEVER CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1943

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Clydach</i>	<i>Pontardawe</i>	<i>Ystalyfera</i>	<i>G.C.G.</i>
0— 1	M	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....
1— 2	M	3	....	1	....
	F	3	....	....	....
2— 3	M	2	....	....	....
	F	1	1	1	....
3— 4	M	1	5	1	....
	F	5	1	....	....
4— 5	M	2	....	2	1
	F	3	3	1	....
5—10	M	14	7	11	....
	F	15	8	11	1
10—15	M	3	5	1	3
	F	3	7	6	....
15—25	M	....	1	3	1
	F	2	....	....	....
25—35	M	....	....	....	....
	F	1	2	1	....
35—65	M	....	....	1	....
	F	2	....	....	....
65 and over	M	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....
TOTALS		60	40	40	6

Males 66
 Females 80

TOTAL 146

CANCER DEATHS.

Total	Site	Sex	Age Groups			Cly- dach	Pontar- dawe	Ystaly- fera	G.C.G.
			25-45	45-65	65-				
1	Rectal	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
2	Carcinoma	F	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
5	Carcinoma of	M	—	3	2	1	2	2	—
4	Stomach	F	—	—	4	—	2	2	—
4	Carcinoma of	M	—	2	2	4	—	—	—
1	Ethnoids	F	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
1	Carcinoma of	M	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
1	Bladder	F	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
2	Carcinoma of	M	—	2	—	—	1	1	—
1	Oesophagus	F	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
—	Retroperitoneal	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	Sarcoma	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
1	Carcinoma of	M	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
1	Liver	F	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
7	Carcinoma of	M	1	3	3	4	2	1	—
1	Lungs	F	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
—	Carcinoma of	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Breast	F	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
1	Carcinoma of	M	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
—	Femur	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Carcinoma of	M	—	—	4	—	2	1	1
1	Colon	F	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
1	Carcinoma of	M	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
2	Antrum	F	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
1	Carcinoma of	M	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
—	Bronchus	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	Carcinoma of								
2	Uterus	F	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
—	Carcinoma of								
1	Cervix	F	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
2	Carcinoma of								
—	Prostate								
	Gland	M	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
50			3	21	26	17	19	11	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGES	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1
1— 5	1	....	....	....	....	1
5—15	1	....	....	....	....	1	1
15—25	11	3	2	2	3	....	....
25—35	7	1	....	3	2	....	....
35—45	1	1	1	1	3	1	....
45—55	1	....
55—65	1	....	....	....
65- & upwards	1	....
TOTALS	20	20	6	3	7	8	4	2

Rate of Incidence of New Cases—1·5 per 1,000 civilian population.

Death rate from this Disease '6 " " "

NUMBER OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE YEAR.

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	TOTAL
108	87	195	41	32	73	268

Rate of Incidence : 8·4 per 1,000 civilian population.

NUMBER OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	TOTAL
120	98	218	45	34	79	297

Rate of Incidence : 9·3 per 1,000 civilian population.

**LIST OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EXCLUDING T.B.,
DURING THE YEAR 1943.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Cly- dach</i>	<i>Pontar- dawe</i>	<i>Ystaly- fera</i>	<i>G.C.G.</i>	<i>Cases of Listed Diseases Ad- mitted to Hosp.</i>
Whooping Cough	24	....	19	5	....	....
Measles	635	164	338	127	6	....
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	22	2	8	2	10	22+7 obs.
Pneumonia	22	2	10	9	1	....
Puer. Pyrexia*	3	....	1	2	....	....
Diphtheria	73	12	28	25	8	73+14 obs.
Scarlet Fever	146	59	41	40	6	85
Erysipelas	7	....	5	2	....	....
TOTALS	932	239	450	212	31	201

LIST OF DIPHTHERIA CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1943

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Clydach</i>	<i>Pontardawe</i>	<i>Ystalyfera</i>	<i>G.C.G.</i>
0—1	M	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....
1—2	M	1	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....
2—3	M	....	1	1	....
	F	....	....	....	....
3—4	M	....	1	1	....
	F	1	....	....	....
4—5	M	....	1	2	....
	F	....	....	1	1
5—10	M	....	1	3	1
	F	....	3	6	....
10—15	M	1	7	2	1
	F	2	5	5	....
15—25	M	....	3	....	1
	F	3	4	1	3
25—35	M	2	....	....	....
	F	2	1	2	....
35—65	M	....	....	....	1
	F	....	1	1	....
65 and over	M	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....
TOTAL		12	28	25	8

Males 31
Females 42
TOTAL 73

NUMBER OF CHILDREN VACCINATED IN THE DISTRICT DURING 1943.

		<i>Clydach</i>	<i>Pontardawe</i>	<i>Ystalyfera</i>	<i>Gwauncae- gurwen</i>	<i>Total</i>
Quarter	31 /3 /43	27	18	1	....	46
	„ 30 /6 /43	1	14	22	....	37
	„ 30 /9 /43	1	30	19	....	50
	„ 31 /12 /43	11	5	5	9	30
TOTALS		40	67	47	9	163

RAINFALL IN 1943—AT WERN HOUSE, YSTALYFERA

<i>Month</i>	<i>Total Depth</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Total Depth</i>
	<i>Inches</i>		<i>Inches</i>
January	9·79	July	5·69
February	4·80	August	7·68
March	1·78	September	7·38
April	2·32	October	7·20
May	6·64	November	3·84
June	6·13	December	2·88
		TOTAL	66·13

Rain Gauge

Diameter of Funnel—5 inches.

Height of top—Above ground, 1 foot, 6 inches.

Above Sea Level, 240 feet.

We desire to thank Miss Lily Williams, of the address given above, to whom we are indebted, for the figures shown in this table.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1943

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1943 as laid down in the Ministry of Health Circular.

During the year, the general work of the Public Cleansing Section was maintained in the face of transport difficulties, and curtailment has not become necessary.

Progress was also made during 1943 in two new fields of work, *viz.*, Resazurin Test Sampling of milk in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Area Laboratory Scheme and preliminary action under the Infestation Order, 1943, with particular reference to rodents.

Inspections for the Year 1943

(a) All types of premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	....	....	....	....	....	512
(b) Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	104
(c) Farms, Cowsheds and Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	89
(d) Factories and Workshops	....	....	....	....	....	48
(e) Verminous Premises	....	....	....	....	....	36
(f) Miscellaneous (including Food Stores and Butchers' Shops)	....	....	....	....	....	247
(g) Inspections under Infestation Order, 1943	....	....	....	....	....	162
TOTAL						1,198

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection in the area is carried out by direct labour and contract.

Direct Labour

Area	Transport		Personnel
Pontardawe	Bedford Lorry 30 cwts.	3
Clydach	Morris Lorry 30 "	3
Gwauncaegurwen	Bedford Lorry 30 "	3
Ystalyfera	Morris Lorry 30 "	3
Salvage (General)	Bedford Lorry 5 tons	3
Cwmllynfell Tip	—	1
TOTAL	5	16

Contracts

Refuse Collection by contract is carried out in Cwmllynfell, Alltwen and Rhos, Craigcefnparc, Garnswllt, Velindre and Rhydybandy.

Refuse Disposal

Tips are owned or rented by the Council.

Clydach (Penybank)	} <i>Simplified Control Tipping System employed</i>
Pontardawe (Canal Side Tip) ....	....
Ystalyfera (Penywern) ....	....
Gwauncaegurwen (Brynamman) ....	....
Cwmllynfell ....	....
Rhiwfawr (Brynmorgan Field)	

Dumping is also carried out at various farm lands in the area, for road-making purposes.

Salvage

The Refuse Collection Organisation has been adapted for the collection of waste materials. This reduces the volume of combustible refuse hitherto collected with house refuse.

Night Soil Removal

This work is carried out by Contractors in the areas named below.

<i>Area</i>				<i>No. of Pails Removed during Year 1943</i>
Cilybebyll	....	....	....	9,593
Rhydyfro	....	....	....	7,135
Rhiwfawr	....	....	....	5,128
Ynysymond	....	....	....	3,742
Craigcefnparc	....	....	....	572
				<hr/> 26,170 <hr/>
Number of pails renewed				17
Number of pans renewed				4
Connections to sewer				2

Factories Act, 1937

Factories and Workshops in the area were visited and results of inspections recorded on a card-index system. Breaches of regulations were notified to the persons concerned, and received attention.

Complaints made by H.M. Inspector of Factories investigated and dealt with—5.

Infestation Order, 1943

The above Order, dated 6th May, 1943, supplements the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and is aimed primarily at reducing the rat population of the country. Under its direction a survey of the area was completed and forwarded with the relevant maps to the Ministry of Food.

Action has been taken to eliminate the infestations recorded in the approved survey.

Details of Action.

No. of notices served under R. & M. (D) A., 1919	1
No. of notices complied with	1
No. of premises baited....	80
No. of poison baits laid (biscuits)	2,800

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	304
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	512
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) (above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	54
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	105
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	63
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	184

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	176
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices Nil
- (a) by Owners Nil
- (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 61
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices 9
- (a) by Owners 9
- (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit Nil

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	....	....	....	....	....	....	207
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	....	....	....	....	....	....	285
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,448
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	....	....	....	....	....	....	33
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	....	....	....	....	....	67
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

Milk Supply

(a)	Number of Inspections made of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops during the year	....	....	....	....	....	....	89
(b)	Number of Cowsheds erected	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
(c)	Number of Cowsheds which were internally reconditioned, new floors and channels in cement concrete, additional windows fixed for improving the lighting, and ventilation, new stalls and troughs, etc., erected	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
(d)	New Dairies erected	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
(e)	Number of Cowsheds limewashed on internal surfaces of walls, and interior of roofs cleansed as the result of informal action taken	....	....	....	....	....	....	11

Samples of graded and ungraded milk have been taken frequently. Particulars of these are given in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

Meat and Other Foods

The slaughtering of all meat in the area is centralised at Swansea and Llandilo. Meat is inspected at the allocation depots and also at retail premises. Unfit meat is returned to the abattoir concerned for salvage purposes.

Butchers' Shops.

Number of visits to butchers' shops and inspections of vans delivering meat in the area—128.

The textile shortage necessitated the payment of special attention to the caps and coats worn by personnel engaged in delivery of meat. The appropriate authorities were communicated with in an attempt to improve the position.

Other Foods

The following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Tinned Meat	....	....	630 lbs.	Cheese	....	342 lbs.
Assorted tins, Milk, Fish,				Fish	....	236 lbs.
Fruit, Vegetables	....	....	581 lbs.	Beans	....	1 cwt.
Ham	....	....	295 lbs.	Jam	....	80 lbs.
Rice Flour	....	....	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts.	Margarine		9 lbs.
Milk Powder	....	....	84 lbs.	Butter	....	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Custard Pudding	....	....	114 pkts.	Beef	....	116 lbs.
Potatoes	....	....	5 tons	Biscuits	....	14 lbs.
Rice	....	....	1 cwt.	Split Peas		$\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Sultanas	....	....	53 lbs.	Peas	....	4 cwts.

Where possible, food declared unfit for human consumption was utilised for pig feeding.

Infectious Diseases

1.	Number of investigations made of Notified Infectious Diseases cases	....	....	....	....	....	129
2.	Number of premises fumigated	....	....	....	....	....	57
3.	Number of cases where clothes were steam disinfected	....	....	....	....	....	262
4.	Number of cases where bedding was destroyed after T.B.:	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

Householders were provided with disinfectant and disinfecting soap, precautionary measures for preventing spread of infection being fully explained. Special attention was paid to those cases nursed at home. All children of school age were excluded for the appropriate time.

Rooms which had been occupied by tubercular patients were treated with an atomised carbolic solution.

IEUAN LEWIS,
Sanitary Inspector.



